

Distributed System and Methodology for Delivery of Media Content

Abstract

A distributed system and methodology for delivery of media content is described. In one embodiment, for example, a method of the present invention is described for distributing media comprises: receiving at a server a request from a first client for a particular media item, the first client having broadband connectivity to other clients; at the server, determining a second client who has an encrypted copy of the desired media item; transferring the encrypted copy of the desired media item from the second client to the first client; after the encrypted copy has been transferred to the first client, indicating at the first client that the desired media item is now available; and in response to receiving payment authorization from the first client, decrypting the desired media item for use at the first client.